



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 8, 2021

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2021 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 2

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26 (June 20 – 26). However, the test fishery start has been delayed one week for the 2021 season and began statistical week 27 (June 27 – July 3). The Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (June 27 – July 3). However, the test fishery start has been delayed one week for the 2021 season and will begin statistical week 28 (July 4 – July 10). The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to eastern lower Chatham Straits (Section 9-B and District 10). Results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

This year the *F/V St. Janet* is conducting both test fisheries.

Point Gardner: The second test fishery was conducted on Wednesday, July 7. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvests were below the recent 10-year average. Chum salmon harvest rates were above the recent 10-year average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were 77%. Male sex ratios for chum salmon were not collected.

Kingsmill: The first test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 5. Four of the seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvests were at the recent 10-year average and 10% below the odd year average (1995 – 2019). Chum salmon harvest rates were above the recent 10-year average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were 70%. Male sex ratios for chum salmon were 56%.

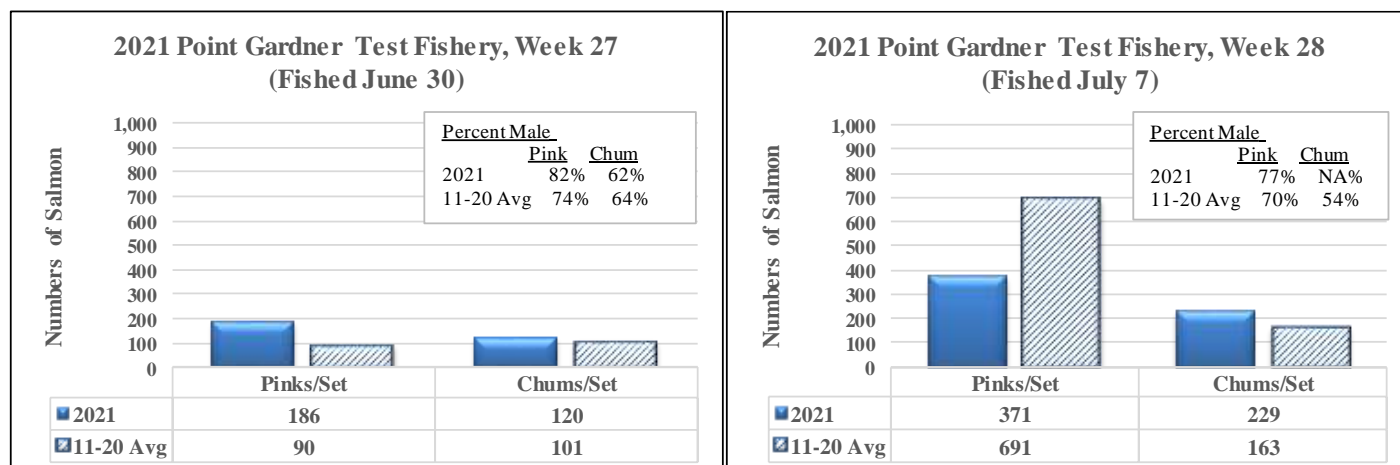
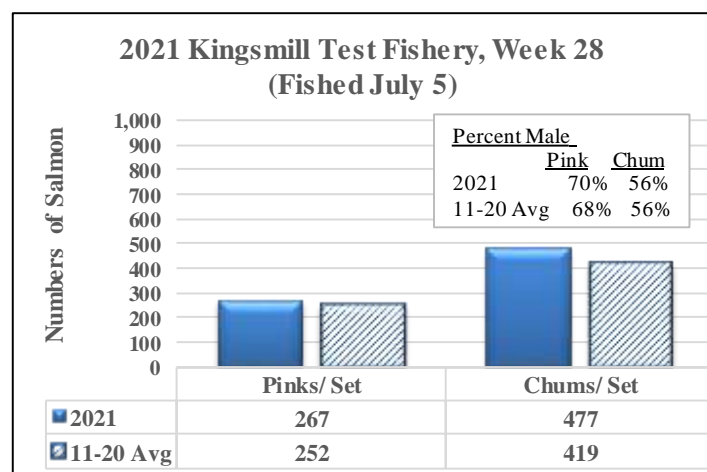
Run Strength: It is difficult to gauge the pink salmon run strength after the first two test fishing periods. While Point Gardner SW 27 harvest rates were well above the recent 10-year average, SW 28 was well below. The first Kingsmill test fishery indicates an average pink salmon run strength. Chum salmon harvests have been slightly above average for both test fisheries. Run strength indicators will become more conclusive as more test fishery periods are conducted.

Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. If the sex ratios were representative, then the pink salmon run timing may be later than normal as indicated by the above average sex ratio. Chum salmon run timing appears to be average.

Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pink salmon: 3.8 pounds; chum salmon: 7.1 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.3 pounds; chum salmon: 6.1 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 12 and Tuesday, July 13.

Point Gardner:**Kingsmill:**

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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